



Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Development

Presentation to AASHTO

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➤ Background

- Upon FTA's issuance of the PTASP Final Rule, the Department coordinated with the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association (PPTA) Safety Committee to ascertain the state of the industry regarding safety.
 - Many agencies had System Safety Program Plans (SSPP), but most plans did not incorporate Safety Management Systems and performance targets, which are critical elements of the PTASP Final Rule.
 - Most SSPPs were relatively basic documents emphasizing the importance of safety, but using antiquated methodologies.

➤ Background (cont.)

- In consultation with the industry, it was determined that the Department would not be the appropriate entity to draft a statewide plan, but rather the industry would benefit most if each agency drafted its own plan using a PennDOT-provided template.
- To do so, each applicable agency wrote a letter to PennDOT indicating that they would draft and certify a compliant PTASP independently; however, much of each plan's development was conducted by PennDOT through our template program.

➤ Template Development – Initial Stage

- Department decided to develop a PTASP template in-house.
- Employees involved successfully completed several training courses provided by TSI and other industry-recognized training programs.

➤ Template Development – Analysis of Resources

- Documents collected and analyzed:
 - Agency SSPPs
 - *FTA's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Template for Bus Transit*
 - 49 CFR Part 673
- Determination made to use 49 CFR Part 673 as primary resource and structure of template.

➤ Template Development - Drafting

- Used PTASP Final Rule from Federal Register as much as possible to organize template.
- Borrowed language significantly and made changes mostly to ensure grammatical integrity.
- To clarify more complex concepts, language was taken from FTA's *Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Template for Bus Transit – Reference Guide*.

➤ Template Development - Review

- The Department received technical assistance from Lebanon Transit to ensure language was appropriate to small urban transit providers.
- FTA's PTASP Technical Assistance Center was instrumental in providing value-added suggestions, which were incorporated into the template.

➤ Template Introduction

- Department offered a series of trainings to show agencies how to use the template and make it a value-added product for their operations.
- Months of one-on-one technical assistance.

➤ Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Challenges:
 - Ensuring understanding that SSPPs do not meet many requirements of PTASP Final Rule and Safety Management Systems.
 - Developing a document that meets all requirements and is still user friendly.
- Lessons Learned:
 - Getting agencies to start working early-on.
 - Added technical assistance for agencies that subcontract service—such PTASPs are more about subcontractor oversight.

> Questions?

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